

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. to 3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) The container with a hinged lid according to claim 36, wherein

the operating device can be removed from the container body.

5. (Previously Presented) The container with a hinged lid according to claim 36, wherein

the hinged lid is provided on its base end part with a pivot shaft, the pivot shaft is fitted in bottomed holes formed in the container body.

6. (Previously Presented) The container with a hinged lid according to claim 36, wherein

the hinged lid is provided with a frame protruding toward the container body, and

the container body is provided with an inner rib and an outer rib between which the frame of the hinged lid is engaged.

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7. (Original) The container with a hinged lid according to claim 6, wherein

a packing is placed in a space between the inner and the outer rib so that an end edge of the frame comes into contact with the packing.

E 8. (Previously Presented) The container with a hinged lid according to claim 36, wherein

the hinged lid is provided with a frame protruding toward the container body, and

an inclined surface with which the frame of the hinged lid comes into contact, is formed in the container body.

9. (Currently Amended) The container with a hinged lid according to claim 36, wherein

the hinged lid is provided with a frame protruding toward the container body, and

the frame is formed integrally with the hinged lid and is made of an elastic material.

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10. (Previously Presented) The container with a hinged lid according to claim 36, wherein

the side wall of the container body is provided along a lower end thereof with a joining rib, and

the bottom wall is provided with a pair of catching ribs, and an inclined rib for guiding the joining rib toward the pair of catching ribs.

11. (Previously Presented) The container with a hinged lid according to claim 36, wherein

the elastic biasing means is a rubber plate, and the rubber plate is positioned away from the respective middle parts of the container body and the hinged lid toward one side with respect to the middle parts.

12. (Original) The container with a hinged lid according to claim 11, wherein

the rubber plate is disposed horizontally and fixedly on the container body.

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13. (Original) The container with a hinged lid according to claim 12, wherein

the rubber plate is disposed horizontally on the container body, and is held fixedly in place by a rubber plate holding member attached to the container body.

14. (Previously Presented) The container with a hinged lid according to claim 36, wherein

the hinged lid has a resin body formed by injection molding, and a label incorporated in the resin body.

15. (Previously Presented) The container with a hinged lid according to claim 36, wherein

the inner surface of the hinged lid has reinforcing ribs.

16. (Previously Presented) The container with a hinged lid according to claim 36, wherein

the elastic biasing means is a rubber plate having a first end part fastened to the container body and a second end part fastened to the hinged lid, and

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the rubber plate is provided in the second end part with a plurality of positioning holes to receive projections formed on the hinged lid, respectively.

17. (Original) The container with a hinged lid according to claim 16, wherein

the projections are fitted in the positioning holes formed in the second end part of the rubber plate, and a rubber plate holding member is put on the second end part of the rubber plate.

18. (Previously Presented) The container with a hinged lid according to claim 36, wherein

a finger rest projects upward from an edge part of the horizontal strip.

19. (Original) The container with a hinged lid according to claim 18, wherein

an edge of the finger rest is inclined upward from opposite ends thereof toward a middle part thereof.

20. (Previously Presented) The container with a hinged lid according to claim 36, wherein

a lower part of the vertical wall is connected to the container body by a connecting wall laterally extending from the lower part of the vertical wall.

21. (Previously Presented) The container with a hinged lid according to claim 36, wherein

the horizontal strip is provided with reinforcing ribs.

22. (Previously Presented) The container with a hinged lid according to claim 36, wherein

the horizontal strip is extended from a part of the vertical wall corresponding to the catching part formed on the vertical wall.

23. (Previously Presented) The container with a hinged lid according to claim 36, wherein

the hinged lid is provided with a frame protruding toward the container body,

the container body is provided with a sealing wall defining a space for closely receiving the frame of the hinged lid, and an inner edge of an upper end of the sealing wall excluding a section thereof corresponding to the elastic biasing means is beveled to form a chamfer.

24. (Previously Presented) The container with a hinged lid according to claim 36, wherein

the upper wall of the container body is provided on its inner surface with reinforcing ribs to prevent the upper wall from being bent by the elastic biasing means.

25. (Previously Presented) The container with a hinged lid according to claim 36, wherein

the upper wall of the container body is provided with a pair of first flaps extending toward the opening, and a pair of second flaps formed opposite to the pair of first flaps, respectively.

26. (Previously Presented) The container with a hinged lid according to claim 25, wherein

each of the first flaps and the second flaps has a wavy longitudinal section.

27. (Original) The container with a hinged lid according to claim 25, wherein

free end parts of the first and the second flaps are bent in upwardly concave curves to form round end parts and

concave parts are formed in the free end parts of the first and the second flaps so as to extend from the round end parts toward the base ends of the first and the second flaps, respectively.

28. (Original) The container with a hinged lid according to claim 25, wherein

the pair of first flaps diverge toward free end parts thereof so that a space between the pair of first flaps expands toward the free end parts of the pair of first flaps, and the pair of second flaps diverge toward free end parts thereof so that a space between the pair of second flaps expands toward the free end parts of the pair of second flaps.

29. (Original) The container with a hinged lid according to claim 25, wherein

end edges of the first flaps, and those of the corresponding second flaps are parallel to each other.

30. (Original) The container with a hinged lid according to claim 25, wherein

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B a gap between an end edge of each of the first flap and an end edge of the corresponding second flap is expanded toward the inside.

31. (Original) The container with a hinged lid according to claim 25, wherein

outer edges of the opening facing the outer side edges of the first flaps and the outer side edges of the second flaps have a shape corresponding to those of the outer side edges of the first flaps and the outer side edges of the second flaps.

32. (Previously Presented) The container with a hinged lid according to claim 36, wherein

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the side wall of the container body is provided on its outer surface with a shoulder projecting downward.

33. (Previously Presented) The container with a hinged lid according to claim 36, wherein

the bottom wall has a resin body formed by injection molding, and a label incorporated into the resin body, and is formed by insert molding.

34. (Previously Presented) The container with a hinged lid according to claim 36, wherein

a central part of the bottom wall is raised.

35. (Previously Presented) The container with a hinged lid according to claim 36, wherein

a peripheral part of the bottom wall extends outward from the extended edges of the side wall of the container body.

36. (Currently Amended) A container with a hinged lid comprising:

a container body having (1) an upper wall with an opening defined therein, (2) a recessed portion along an edge of the opening of the upper wall on a side of a free edge of a hinged lid defined herein, the recessed portion forming a plane below the upper wall, and (3) a side wall integral with and extending in a diverging manner from the upper wall to define an open lower end that is wider than the upper wall;

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a bottom wall covering the open lower end of the side wall;
a hinged lid pivotally attached to the container body in the vicinity of the opening, the hinged lid obstructing at least one edge of the opening of the upper wall, the hinged lid positionable to cover the opening of the upper wall;

an elastic biasing means between the hinged lid and the container body, whereby the biasing means urges the hinged lid away from the opening of the upper wall into an open position;
locking means on a free edge of the hinged lid; and

a lid operating device provided in the recessed portion, having a latching part facing the interior of the container body, the latching part for engaging the locking means, whereby the latching part releases the locking means when the lid operating device is operated in the recessed portion, thereby

moving the latching part away from the locking means, and releasing the hinged lid wherein

(a) the recessed portion is provided ~~on~~ at a ~~round~~ rounded inclined wall extending from the upper wall to the side wall,

(b) the lid operating device has a horizontal strip to be depressed, and cooperating with the latching part, and

(c) the horizontal strip is located within the outside shape of the container body so that the horizontal strip is on a plane below the upper wall.

37. (New) A container with a hinged lid comprising:

a container body having (1) an upper wall with an opening defined therein, (2) a recessed portion along an edge of the opening of the upper wall on a side of a free edge of a hinged lid defined herein, the recessed portion forming a plane below the upper wall, and (3) a side wall integral with and extending in a diverging manner from the upper wall to define an open lower end that is wider than the upper wall;

a bottom wall covering the open lower end of the side wall;
a hinged lid pivotally attached to the container body in the vicinity of the opening, the hinged lid obstructing at least one

edge of the opening of the upper wall, the hinged lid positionable to cover the opening of the upper wall;

an elastic biasing means between the hinged lid and the container body, whereby the biasing means urges the hinged lid away from the opening of the upper wall into an open position;

locking means on a free edge of the hinged lid; and
a lid operating device provided in the recessed portion, having a latching part facing the interior of the container body, the latching part for engaging the locking means, whereby the latching part releases the locking means when the lid operating device is operated in the recessed portion, thereby moving the latching part away from the locking means, and releasing the hinged lid wherein

(a) the recessed portion is provided on a rounded inclined wall extending from the upper wall to the side wall, the upper wall having a depressed part formed near a free end edge of the hinged lid and an upper end part of the side wall,

(b) the lid operating device has a horizontal strip to be depressed, and cooperating with the latching part, and

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(c) the horizontal strip is located within the outside shape of the container body so that the horizontal strip is on a plane below the upper wall.